

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /047 W

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R 261135Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5446

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 1804

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: RFE EMPLOYEE "RETURNS" TO POLAND

REF: WARSAW 7022

1. RFE FIRST LEARNED OF LACH'S REDEFECTION FROM RADIO WARSAW BROADCAST. LACH LAST APPEARED AT WORK MORNING OF NOVEMBER 21. HIS WIFE, WHO IS POLISH-BORN AUSTRIAN CITIZEN, ALSO DISAPPEARED, BUT RFE NOT YET CERTAIN SHE ALSO RETURNED TO POLAND SINCE SOME COLLEAGUES THINK SHE MAY BE VISITING RELATIVES IN VIENNA. SEARCH OF APARTMENT SHOWS ONLY SUITCASE OR TWO OF THINGS REMOVED. LACH DID, HOWEVER, TAKE VOLKSWAGEN ON WHICH PAYMENTS NOT YET COMPLETED.

2. DATES GIVEN REFTEL FOR LACH'S DEPARTURE FROM POLAND AND EMPLOYMENT WITH RFE ARE CORRECT. HE FIRST WORKED IN VIENNA FOR POLLING ORGANIZATION USED BY RFE IN ITS AUDIENCE RESEARCH, THEN DIRECTLY IN MUNICH FOR AUDIENCE AND PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH DEPARTMENT. THIS OFFICE CONTRACTS WITH POLLING ORGANIZATIONS IN VARIOUS EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO QUESTION VISITING EASTERN EUROPEANS CONCERNING THEIR RADIO LISTENING HABITS.

3. LACH APPEARS TO HAVE PERFORMED HIS WORK QUIETLY AND TO
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HAVE KEPT MOSTLY TO HIMSELF. ACCORDING TO ONE OF RFE'S

SECURITY OFFICERS, HE WAS UNDER SOME SUSPICION RECENTLY, THOUGH THERE WAS NO TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF ANYTHING UNTOWARD. AFTER SMOLINSKIS REDEFECTED SOME POLISH COWORKERS REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED VIEW LACH WOULD BE NEXT.

4. MUNICH SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG REPORTED LACH'S RETURN ON NOVEMBER 26 AND NOTED INVESTIGATION NOW UNDERWAY TO SEE IF HE HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN ESPIONAGE ACTIVITY WHILE IN FRG.

5. WE WILL INFORM ADDRESSEES SHOULD RFE OR POLICE INVESTIGATION DEVELOP ANY FURTHER INFORMATION. VALDES

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Message Attributes

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